

Ecomedia - Toronto

Bulletin

ISSUE NO. 12

SEPT. 30, 1986

P.O. BOX 915, STN. F, TORONTO, ONT, M4Y 2N9, CANADA

Token Indian Hired To Diffuse Olympic Boycott

Since the Lubicon Lake people called a boycott of the 1988 winter olympics in Calgary, the Olympic organizing committee has been looking for ways to diffuse the boycott and opposition to the games in general.

The Lubicon Indian band, who live in Northern Alberta, called the boycott to pressure the Alberta government to stop destroying their land and their way of life. The band's traditional area has been taken over by the province who have sold it to 10 major oil companies, leaving the band in a desperate state. Since the oil companies moved in years ago, most of the animals have left the area, leaving the band's hunting and trapping economy in ruins and 95% of their people on welfare.

Now the Olympic Organizing Committee has appointed Sykes Powderface, an Indian leader as its Olympic native liaison co-ordinator. His role will be to bridge the communications gap between the Olympic '88 officials and the Albertan Native people. Native people have been complaining that their involvement in the games is merely as entertainment and they will not be receiving any of the economic benefits from the games. Powderface will merely provide input to the committees decisions, which is expected to have little or no consequence as most of the important policies are already in place.

Powderface has also stated that he won't get involved in the Lubicon Lake band's call for a boycott. He says "that's a political issue and I think it's better if we leave that to the politicians. I'm not a mediator, I'm a coordinator, and it's outside my terms of reference."

Lubicon Lake chief Bernard Ominayak sent Powderface this reply: "You should know, whether you know it now or not, that you are already involved, by both design and definition, on the side of the people who are seeking to destroy and subvert the aboriginal rights of your Indian brothers and sisters.

"Olympic officials have made very clear in the past, although they are now trying to deny it, that the position which you've accepted was specifically designed and created to help "defuse" the Lubicon boycott, by creating the impression of Indian involvement in the planning and conduct of the Calgary Winter Olympics. This is of course a classic divide and conquer tactic, of the type Indian people have seen many times before.

"Moreover a careful look at Olympic Committee proposals for so-called Indian involvement makes it very clear that Olympic officials aren't even prepared to pay the price of their tactics with real Indian involvement. They only want to create the impression of Indian involvement, not the reality. They certainly don't want to give up any of the political power or economic advantages which go along with real involvement.

"In fact your new job is openly described by Olympic officials as designed to provide "input" to Olympic Committee decision-making, not as a full voting member, but rather as a non-voting employee. Such a job description fully justifies their calling you their "token Indian".

"Other Olympic Committee efforts to create the impression of Indian involvement in the economic benefits of the Calgary Winter Olympics such as subsidizing the production of handicrafts for sale to tourists, and the hiring of Indians to perform traditional dances at selected Olympic ceremonies, are equally transparent and insulting. These things are not real involvement in the economic benefits of the Calgary Winter Olympics and we all know it. Real economic involvement, it has become very clear, means multi-million dollar contracts for ski resorts and media housing, granted behind closed doors to friends and associates without benefit of competitive bidding.

"Olympic officials clearly think that Indian people are easily tricked, easily split up and for sale very cheap. We intend to prove them wrong, by sticking together and using Calgary's Winter Olympics as a once in a lifetime opportunity to educate the whole world about the abuse of aboriginal rights in Alberta.

"We hope that you will refuse to be used in this way and will join us by publicly resigning your position with the Olympic Organizing Committee. If you do not do so, we will have to assume that you're fully aware of what you're doing, and that you've consciously decided to side with people who are seeking to subvert our aboriginal rights and destroy us as a people."

The Ecomedia Network is an activist/anti-authoritarian/anarchist 'wire' service. It is an alternative to the mainstream wires and press which ignore the relevant actions and news. Ecomedia is intended for use by radical and alternative papers and radio, and for distribution at rallies, bookstores, etc.

All Ecomedia offices are autonomous and decentralized. The Toronto office is loosely affiliated with Realitiy Now magazine, the Anarchist Black Cross (Canada), the Community Switchboard, and the Anti-Authoritarian News Network. Information on these projects is available on request. In Toronto, the Ecomedia reports are read three times a week on a local alternative radio station - CKLN FM 88.1 - and are sent out by mail and distributed every two or four weeks in the Ecomedia-Toronto Bulletin.

Publications: Please mention the original source of articles used which are listed at the end of each one, as well as Ecomedia-Toronto. An occasional listing of our address would also be appreciated.

Distributors: Please make as many photocopies of the Bulletin as possible for free distribution in bookstores, in mailings, at rallies and gatherings, etc.

Currently the Bulletin is financed by Ecomedia-Toronto, but this won't be able to last very long. For those of you who find this service useful, please consider paying for your postage and printing costs. A suggested subscription rate is \$10/year. Comments and suggestions about Ecomedia are also requested.

Indians Poisoned

September 23/86

Stephen Bingham Acquited

Attorney Stephen Bingham was found not guilty in June of charges that he had smuggled a gun on August the 21st, 1971 to Black Revolutionary George Jackson. Jackson was murdered later that day by the San Quentin prison guards in Calif. who said he was attempting to escape.

The facts of course are very different from the governments story. In 1971 George Jackson was a leader of the Black Liberation Movement, and of the prison struggle in particular. Prison authorities had approached at least one prisoner Alan Mancino a white prisoner who at great risk revealed the plot that an offer of special treatment would be given to him if he murdered George. Jackson was killed by a bullet fired from a gun tower 20 feet above his head, and to his rear. The bullet entered the top of his head.

George's murder was met with resistance across the country. On August 29th, the Ingleside Police Station in San Francisco was attacked and a police sergeant was killed. A communique was issued by the George Jackson Assault Squad stating, in part; "...revolutionary violence was committed against the Ingleside Pig Station as one political consequence of the intolerable political assassination of Comrade George Jackson in particular, and the inhumane torture in POW Camps in general."

Prisoners in many institutions held protests and fasts in outrage over George Jackson's murder, in fact, the main action leading up to the Attica Rebellion was such a fast.

-The Insurgent

Last week a seventeen year old from the Peerless Lake Community in Northern Alberta was sentenced to sixty days in jail for stealing photocopying fluid from a school. The fluid, which is highly toxic, was mixed with a household disinfectant and drunk by 13 Indians, killing six of them.

The incident took place March 11 at a drinking party in the Peerless Lake Indian community. Drinking has been a problem there recently due to a desperate economic and social situation.

Peerless lake was isolated and inaccessible until recently, and the community lived by hunting and trapping. The people of Peerless lake never signed treaty, and as a result they retain unextinguished aboriginal rights to their traditional lands.

Since the onset of oil and gas development in the area north of Lesser Slave Lake (around 1979, 1980), the native communities in the area have suffered enormously. The industrial activity resembles nothing so much as a full blown military invasion, with round-the-clock road construction, seismic testing, well drilling, pipeline construction and so on. By the winter of 1982 to 1983, the traditional economy of most of these groups was for all practical reasons totally destroyed. The welfare statistics of the Peerless Lake people are incredibly high.

So when six Indians die of methyl hydrate poisoning we must start to ask questions: Why would a group of native people drink from a bottle which was clearly labelled poisonous? Why is a drinking party of the sort a common practice in their community? Why are these people desperate enough to drink household disinfectants and other fluids for a cheap high? Who is responsible for the six deaths at Peerless Lake? And especially we should be asking, why is a seventeen year old going to jail for 60 days when the real criminals, the provincial government and the oil and gas companies, remain free to destroy the land and the people of the area?

-Ecomedia-Toronto

TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY UNDER ACTIVIST CONTROL

On Nov. 12 a significant step forward for animal liberation took place when animal activists cemented their control of the Toronto Humane Society. Guided by THS President Vicki Miller, the Humane Society membership voted overwhelmingly to support a resolution reducing the Board of Directors from 16 to 5, thus eliminating the bureaucrats, lawyers and businessmen from the Society, and creating a solid front against animal abuse and exploitation industries.

There has been an incredible media hysteria and misinformation campaign underway due mainly to the fact that *activists* are in control of the Society's assets, which are estimated at around \$12 million. The media is more concerned with trying to link the activists to the Animal Liberation Front or exposing supposed conflict of interest occurrences (Ms. Miller is also president of ARK II, a "hard-core" activist group) than with reporting on the facts and figures behind the "takeover". Some of the more important details conveniently absent in the media are the following:

-Of the 3400 membership, 1400, or 40%, supported the change in the Board of Directors.

-Only 37 people, or a mere 1% voted against Vicki Miller.

-At the General Meeting held Nov. 12, 163 members were present to vote, while the remaining 1300+ had used proxies. So even if the proxies had not been used (they were a source of contention), two thirds of the meeting still supported the resolution.

One must begin to wonder why the media has been so vocal in its opposition when it is supporting

only 37 people?! It has also been recently mentioned in fur industry publications that they, the fur industry, take credit for the attacks and funding of those attacks on the animal rights movement.

Among the priorities mentioned by Miller for the THS were the shelter, and the activities and functions of the shelter, which equal 60-70% of the total operating budget. As well, Miller says: "Spay/neuter clinics will continue as essential components of our ongoing commitments." Additionally, the THS will be considering methods to develop an urban wildlife rehabilitation program, and, according to their mandate laid out in 1887, their founding year, the THS will extend their concerns to animals used in cosmetic product testing, to urban wildlife, and to animals exploited and killed by the fur industry. In 1887 the Humane Society offered rewards for catching vivisectors in the act, but we're unlikely to see that now. Pound animals continue to be bought by the THS though, in an effort to deplete those resources from vivisectors.

Some of the recent accomplishments of the THS are that membership has increased to 3400 from 700 three years ago, and that animal adoptions have increased by 10% over the last few months. More details the media conveniently deletes!

At the a press conference on Nov. 14, Vicki Miller was constantly attacked by the media (in particular Ian Harvey from Toronto's trash-rag the Sun who seems to have a personal vendetta against Miller) who consider her to be too radical. Miller simply described 'radical' as meaning "to get to the root of the problems."

JIM TRIMBLE SENTENCED TO DIE IN A GAS CHAMBER

Jim Trimble is a 22-year-old anarchist punk who was framed for a murder he did not commit. He is condemned to die by gassing in the Maryland gas chamber despite the fact that he was only 17 when arrested, and despite the fact that he was found by the court to be "mentally retarded".

Jim Trimble's execution will be in violation of international law which states that the sentence of death shall not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below the age of 18 years, or persons who are determined "insane". There is reason to believe that Jim has been made the scapegoat for a crime he did not commit and that he did not receive a fair trial, as the following evidence will show.

Jim and four other men were arrested and charged with murder, rape and kidnapping in 1981. The four other men had wealthy families and could afford expensive legal representation. Two were businessmen and the other two worked for them. They

had been using the drug PCP (or Angel Dust) the night of the crime and all four pleaded *guilty* as charged. Jim Trimble pleaded not guilty to the charges, and his widowed and pension-supported mother could not afford legal fees; thus Jim was inadequately represented by a State-appointed lawyer.

The other four men received the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. One of the men had his sentence reduced to 5 years probation and walked away from his trial a free man in exchange for his testimony against Jim Trimble. Two others had their life sentences reduced to 5 years each but both were released on parole after 3 1/2 years. The fourth man is in a rehabilitation centre and will be released shortly. *Jim Trimble received the sentence of death, plus 3 consecutive life terms, and an additional 70 years!*

Jim Trimble's arresting officers threw him into a cold cell, stripped him naked, interrogated him,

threatened him, assaulted him, did not allow him to use the toilet, and denied him any food - until he confessed to a crime he maintains he did not commit. At that time he was living with his 16-year-old girlfriend who was 8 1/2 months pregnant with their son, who Jim still has yet to see.

In his statement to police, Jim said that he had decided to confess to the crimes because he "didn't want the other guys to get blamed." He had been told that he could not receive the death penalty as he was a juvenile, whereas the older men accused could be executed if he did not confess.

While awaiting trial, Jim says that the guards treated him with extreme cruelty. He says that during the time when he was locked in solitary confinement, in a cell with no bed, toilet or light, he was forced by guards to sleep in his own excrement. These same guards testified against Jim at his trial.

Throughout the trial Jim was sedated by the drug Thorazine, a major tranquilizer, and could not remember or understand the proceedings very well. The Thorazine was prescribed by doctors. Jim was not permitted to testify at his own trial. His State-appointed lawyer elected that the court not hear Jim's testimony so that he could not be cross-examined.

The only witnesses to the crime were themselves accused of and pleaded guilty to the same charges. They also provided the key testimonies against Jim Trimble in return for reduced sentences. Three of the men testified that Jim Trimble attacked Ms. Rogers (the victim) with a baseball bat, and that, unable to restrain him, they walked away allowing Jim to kill her. It's not only hard to believe that 3 fully-grown men could not restrain one 17-year-old, but their testimony itself falls under suspicion as they would gain reduced sentences by framing Jim.

Jim was found guilty of kidnapping despite the testimony of Ms. Melanie Newson who was a friend of the victim, was said that she and Ms. Rogers had willingly entered a van with one of the other men to, in her words, "party". Jim was found guilty of rape despite the testimony of one of the men that Jim did not have intercourse with anyone, and the admission from the prosecutor that "there is no evidence that the defendant (Jim) himself raped her."

A purse belonging to the victim was found at the residence of two of the men who pleaded guilty to her murder. The baseball bat used to kill the victim belonged to one of the men who pleaded guilty to the murder, and it was later found still in his possession. One of the men, presently in a rehabilitation centre, has allegedly confessed to doctors that it was he who

killed the woman and not Jim. However, as of this date, Jim's State-appointed lawyer has not been able to gain access to his file at the rehab centre.

To be considered incorrigible enough to be executed, the accused must have been convicted of repeated violent crimes, yet the judge found him to be a "confirmed recidivist" (one who returns to old practices) because he "had a homosexual relationship at the age of 13." Soon after the trial this judge died of old age, and it is evident he was having difficulties during the trial when he persistently referred to Jim as "John Robert" or "J.R.". The judge could not even remember the name of the man he sentenced to death.

Since the trial, Jim has lost four appeals. All his appeals have been submitted *without Jim knowing* until he was informed he had lost.

On Death Row, Jim Trimble is isolated from other prisoners and he is locked in his cell 23 hours a day - and he has been there for 5 years. For one hour each day Jim is let out of his cell to work for 85 cents per day from which he must buy soap, shampoo, toothpaste, stamps, etc...

Jim writes: "I've seen people raped here. I've seen people stabbed. I've heard the screams and smelt the flesh of people getting burned to death here. They will throw gas in on someone while they are locked into their cell and then set it on fire and they burn to death because they can't get out. It isn't very nice ... but no one believes inmates.

"Sometimes I just get to the point where I lose all hope. Please don't let me lose hope."

Jim's next appeal comes up on December 18, 1986. We need to help Jim at this very crucial time. Jim faces death in the gas chamber. Is it too much to ask that you try and help him? Jim Trimble is obviously innocent and is being used by the State, similar to the Nazi's use of scapegoats, and surprise, surprise, they want to put him into a gas chamber. The Anarchist Black Cross is demanding a retrial, and Jim's release. We need your help in the form of letters to Jim Trimble, letters to the Governor of Maryland, and money to aid Jim's defence.

Please write protest letters to The Governor, The State House, Annapolis, MD, 21401, USA.

Please write letters of support to Jim Trimble (#161658), Maryland State Penitentiary B518, 954 Forest St., Baltimore, MD, 21202, USA.

Monetary donations can be sent to the Jim Trimble Defence Fund, c/o the Anarchist Black Cross, P.O.Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, M5W 1P7, Canada. (Cash or blank money-orders only please.)

Censored News

Project Censored is a U.S. media research project which lists significant events and issues which have received little or no national media attention. The top ten censored stories of 1985 were as follows:

1- The fierce aerial war in El Salvador being waged against the civilian population, supervised and largely funded by the U.S. government.

2- Military toxic wastes. Each year the U.S. military generates more than half a million tons of hazardous waste, including radioactive wastes, chemicals, and leaking nerve gas rockets. They are not subject to the Environmental Protection agency's regulations.

3- Amnesty International reported that it is now estimated that up to 200,000 East Timorese, a third of the population, have died as a result of Indonesian policies in the region. This has been unreported in the American press since it started in 1975.

4- In 1985, the Reagan administration expanded the power of the presidency with Executive Order 12498 which gave the White House power to review, control, approve, or suppress any government agency activity that may result in any rule-making proceedings.

5- A large amount of media mergers has paved the way for an international information monopoly such as the \$6.3 billion RCA/NBC takeover by General Electric.

6- 12% of all babies born in the U.S. this year will have a serious, often incurable, mental or physical health disorder. The number of abnormal newborns has doubled since the late 50s, the cause being linked to environmental disasters.

7- U.S. officials are covering up scientific failures with the "Star Wars" project in an effort to sell the program to the public.

8- A highly-classified Congressional study, known as the "Nuclear Decapitation Study", revealed that the U.S. strategic command and control system could easily be knocked out quickly in a nuclear war. This led to the rapid development of GWEN - Ground Wave Emergency Network - which calls for construction of 57 30-story communication towers to be built throughout the U.S. this year.

9- Homelessness is now on a scale unheard of since the Great Depression, and a federal task force has totally failed to reduce the problem, as a result of waste and corruption in federal agencies such as Defense, Housing and Urban Development, and the General Services Administration.

10- In the high-tech industry, poisonings are twice as common among semiconductor workers as they are among employees in other industries, and work-related illnesses occur 3 1/2 times more frequently than in manufacturing as a whole. Some high-tech health problems include respiratory disease, chemical sensitization, hypertension, radiation hazards, reproductive problems, and cancer.

-Northern Sun

Military/Social Expenses

The 10th anniversary edition of "World Military and Social Expenditures" is full of statistics and information on 142 countries, and how they compare to each other. It compares nuclear overkill, military repression, wars and their costs, to the state of healthcare and education and other needs of people. Some of the information includes the following:

-There are now, in the world's stockpile, enough nuclear weapons to kill every person 12 times.

-In the 3rd World, military spending has increased 500 percent since 1960, and the number of military governments has grown from 22 to 57.

-One billion people, or 20% of the world's population, lives in countries controlled by military governments. (I don't think this includes so-called democracies like the U.S. or South Africa.)

-For infant mortality rates, the Soviet Union ranks 51, and the U.S. ranks 14.

-If the price of a car had inflated as much since World War II as did sophisticated weapons, the average car today would cost \$300,000.

-In one day, it costs \$590,000 to operate an aircraft carrier, and in one day 14,000 children die of hunger or hunger-related causes in Africa.

-IFDA Dossier

Anti-School Action

BY YVES LAVIGNE *AG, 14/86*
The Globe and Mail

School boards are using technology to fight the fists, boots and stones of vandals.

Tired of spending taxpayers' dollars to repair damaged property, boards are now making schools more resistant to vandalism.

The Metropolitan Separate School Board in Toronto is one board that has nearly completed a program of vandal-proofing, at a cost of \$600,000. For the past eight years, it has been replacing broken windows, as well as those facing playgrounds or at ground level, with a shatter-proof plastic called Lexan.

Although insurance coverage pays for most acts of vandalism against the board's 230 schools, windows are not insured because of high premiums.

"Our major expenditure used to be replacing broken glass," said Malcolm Ingram, the board's coordinator of finance, who writes the yearly report on vandalism.

The board's cost of replacing broken windows has decreased every year since it began installing Lexan, said Robert Primeau, coordinator of plant operations.

The *piece de resistance* in the battle against vandals is a heat- and motion-sensitive electronic alarm system being installed in all schools.

"If kids are not detected quickly

they can cause a major mess by turning on fire hoses," Mr. Ingram said. "We get one of those every two or three years."

The separate school board was fortunate this year, but the Scarborough Board of Education was not.

Vandals entered Buchanan Public School near Lawrence and Warden avenues in March and turned on fire hoses on the main and second floors. The flooding was so extensive that water poured out the main doors into the street.

It severely damaged electrical fixtures, telephones, carpeting, books and ceiling tiles, requiring the installation of a new ceiling. Water ruined the gymnasium's parquet floor, causing the wood to lift. Total damage: \$100,000.

Mr. Ingram believes the cost of vandalism and theft justifies the \$600,000 vandal-proofing program. Vandalism and theft cost the board \$194,168 last year and \$225,873 in 1984, compared with \$266,331 in 1983, the worst year.

William Mok, statistical analyst for the Metro Toronto police records bureau, said there has been a slight decrease in school vandalism during the past few years.

In 1983, there were 833 cases of vandalism against area schools, 841 in 1984, 796 in 1985 and, until the end of May this year, there were 280 cases.

Police/Squatter Confrontation In Copenhagen

In mid-Sept. the largest confrontation between squatters and police took place in Copenhagen, Denmark. For 3 1/2 years, three squats had successfully organized, sustained, and defended themselves from the pressures of the city council politicians, the owner of the buildings - UNGBO - a Social-Democrat organization, and as well, from the police.

The last confrontation took place in Feb. 85 when negotiations between the squatters and UNGBO broke down, resulting in militant actions and street fights for five days. Since then, the situation has been very shaky, and the UNGBO declared that they would send the police in to clear the squats if they were not vacated by Sept. 14. Needless to say, the squatters did not, and will never leave their homes voluntarily, and the largest confrontation took place on that week as a result of the politicians demands.

Ecomedia-Arhus sent out a report on the fourth day of fighting, and has reported that at least 1000 squatters and supporters have been involved in the resistance. On Sept. 14, a support demonstration took place in front of the town hall. The "official" plan was for them to proceed to a park, but the demonstrators started to run and they converged on Ryesgade 58, the largest squat in Copenhagen, and one of the three to be evicted. The 1000 demonstrators built baracades and defended the squat from hundreds of police. Molotov cocktails, fireworks, stones, and catapults were used against the police, and those tactics seemed to work for several days.

Support actions took place simultaneously against UNGBO and the U.S. computer/weapons corporation SPERRY (who have plans to use the area once the squats are out). Several wooden structures and machinery were burned down.

In defense of the squats, roads surrounding the area were dug up and barbed wire was placed to prevent police and their vehicles from coming into the area. At the time of this report, it is unclear as to whether the squats were evicted or if they were successfully defended.

The Ecomedia-Copenhagen office, which is essentially the people involved in the Ryesgade 58 squat, had this to say before the police attack:

"In the squats in Copenhagen, we have autonomy and we run the houses without any 'help' from the authorities. Socially and culturally we make experiments in the squats, and personally and politically many of us have improved a lot. Together we have generated a certain resistance against the state and imperialism. This they want to smash.

"The Social-Democrats want to change Copenhagen into a town for multinational companies, banks and offices ... without squatters with potential for social riots and political resistance.

"In Ryesgade many inhabitants have been deported to give space to the big U.S. computer/weapon company SPERRY. U.S. comes in, squats go out ... this is part of the strategy, a part of NATO.

"In the last year we have come together in the Copenhagen squats (6 for the moment), with many good and hard discussions about political perspectives. For the moment it is very intense because we are going to FIGHT TOGETHER! Of course we are afraid and sorry to lose our home for 3 1/2 years, but we think the fight has perspectives:

"EVEN THOUGH THE FIGHT WILL BE A DEFEAT, THE RESISTANCE IN ITSELF WILL BE A VICTORY!!"

And, as Ecomedia-Arhus states: "Solidarity is a weapon!"

-Ecomedia-Copenhagen
-Ecomedia-Arhus

Effective Direct Action

On Sept. 11, Direct Action claimed responsibility for sending letters to the media saying that they had poisoned South African wines in 2 cities in the province of British Columbia. The government responded by taking the threat seriously and pulled all S.A. wines from the shelves of liquor stores, and dumping the contents down the drain.

As of Oct. 1, the B.C. government says it will comply with new federal government sanctions against S.A. by putting a ban on the import of that country's wine and liquor products. All they needed was a little push in the right direction.

More Direct Action News

Meanwhile, in Paris, France, a suspected leader of Action Directe was arrested on Sept. 25 while he held a press conference in a park. He called the conference to proclaim his innocence and that he was not involved in any way with the recent wave of bombings in that city. Frederic Oriach says that he was "absolutely not clandestine. The police knew where to find me." The police have refused to say why he was arrested.

-Ecomedia-Toronto

Ecomedia-Toronto is on the air!
Three times a week you can hear Ecomedia news reports on **CKLN 88.1 FM**. If you live in or near Toronto, tune in on **TUESDAY** and **FRIDAY** on the **NEWSWAVE** show, between **11AM** and **NOON**, and on **WEDNESDAY** at **4PM**. Radio-Active!